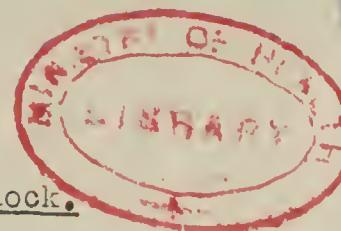


Urban District of Matlock.



Interim Report of the Medical Officer of Health, Sydney S. Proctor, M.D., D.P.H.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Matlock Urban District Council.

1939.

Gentlemen,

My Annual Report for the year 1939 is a very brief interim report in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health as expressed in Circular 2067.

The number of deaths show an increase over the figures for 1938 and this increase is practically entirely among those over 60 years of age.

The birth rate appears to remain about the same, but the final figures are not yet available.

Since September many new problems have arisen but a successful endeavour has been made to continue the supervision of all the essential health services.

Some advance had been made in preparation of the Darley Sewerage Scheme, but all progress was stopped on the outbreak of war.

There was no change in the position regarding water supplies, but Parliamentary sanction has been obtained for the Provisional Order (Matlock Order, 1939), which alters the previous Local Act and Order and gives power to carry out improvements in the supplies at Bonsall and the Upper Wolds Springs. The intended improvements are of such importance that it is hoped that, even in wartime, the Ministry will grant the necessary sanction for loan.

The evacuation scheme operated in the beginning of September and brought many difficulties. Much trouble and expense could have been avoided had the children been inspected in Manchester. In spite of this lack of supervision it is surprising to find there was no increase in the incidence of infectious disease. Most trouble arose from enuresis, verminous conditions and scabies. Notwithstanding strenuous work by nurses, health visitors and householders, verminous conditions and scabies recurred. This is not surprising when one considers how frequently some children went home for week-ends and how, even more frequently, children were visited by relatives. It is sincerely to be hoped that if and when further evacuation takes place such freedom of movement will be prohibited. It is greatly to be regretted that in a few isolated instances children were returned home because no hospital facilities were immediately available.

There was a marked fall in the number of Diphtheria and Tuberculosis cases, while the incidence of Scarlet Fever was very slightly increased.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. Proctor.

Medical Officer of Health.

Bath Street,  
Bakewell.  
July 27th, 1940.

